

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 299710 TOSEC 320135

70

ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 PRS-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:JCHAMBERLAIN:JC

APPROVED BY PA:WDYESS

S/S - PSEBASTIAN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

PA, S/S, S/PRS

----- 067023

O 092235Z DEC 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 299710 TOSEC 320135

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR EDITORIAL
THURSDAY DECEMBER 9 HEADED "CARTER AND DETENTE."

2. WE WILL TAKE AT FACE VALUE LEONID BREZHNEV'S ASSURANCE
THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO PUSH OR TEST JIMMY CARTER SOON
AFTER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS INSTALLED. INDEED ALL THE
TALK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A TEST STRUCK US AS
FOOLISH. THE DELIBERATE SOVIET ORCHESTRATION OF A CRISIS
FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT--IN THE GRAND MANNER OF ANOTHER
CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS--WOULD ONLY PROVOKE ADVERSE REACTION
IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRING ABOUT PRECISELY THE OP-
POSITE OF WHAT THE RUSSIANS WANT.

3. AND MR. BREZHNEV IS MAKING CLEAR HE DOES WANT A CON-
TINUATION OF THE POLICY OF DETENTE. THE SIGNALS FROM
MOSCOW ARE SERIOUS AND SOBER. ALTHOUGH MR. BREZHNEV IS
LESS THAN HAPPY WITH THE BENEFITS OF DETENTE TO THE
SOVIET UNION SO FAR, AND BLUNTLY SAYS SO, HE INDICATES
MOSCOW IS PREPARED TO GO ON WORKING FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 299710 TOSEC 320135

RELATIONS. CERTAINLY HE GIVES THE IMPRESSION THE SOVIET

UNION DOES NOT RELISH THE ALTERNATIVE--A RETURN TO THE

HOSTILITY OF THE COLD-WAR DAYS WITH AN INEVITABLE DEADLY SURGE IN THE ARMS RACE.

4. AMERICANS OUGHT TO BE READING THESE SIGNALS SERIOUSLY FOR THE ALTERNATIVE FOR THEM IS NO LESS DEADLY.

5. OBVIOUSLY DETENTE HAS HAD ITS DISAPPOINTMENTS. MANY FEEL THE RUSSIANS HAVE TRICKED THE UNITED STATES, STOLEN ITS GRAIN AT BARGAIN BASEMENT PRICES, DEFIANTLY MOVED INTO ANGOLA, AND REFUSED TO GIVE THEIR PEOPLE MORE HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS. THE RUSSIANS OFTEN LEAVE THE FEELING THEY ARE OUT TO GET THE AMERICANS. IN FACT, THERE IS NO ARGUING THE SOVIET UNION HAS AN INNATE DRIVE TO OVERCOME AND IS NOT WELL DISPOSED TO THE WEST.

6. BUT, IF WE IN THE WEST DO NOT LIKE THE SOVIET UNION, WE CANNOT WISH IT OUT OF EXISTENCE. SOMEHOW WE MUST LEARN TO GET ALONG WITH IT. THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET SOCIETY ALONG LINES MORE COMPATIBLE WITH THE VALUES OF THE WEST WILL TAKE A LONG TIME AND IN THE MEANTIME AN AMICABLE RELATIONSHIP, IF NOT FRIENDSHIP, IS PREFERABLE TO A STATE OF TENSION THAT COULD MORE EASILY ERUPT IN A NUCLEAR WAR. THIS DOES NOT RULE OUT BUT ASSUMES A CONSTANT VIGILANCE AND DEFENSE AGAINST SOVIET EXPANSIONISM AND AGGRESSIVENESS.

7. MR. CARTER WILL HAVE A TEST. NOT OF CRISIS NECESSARILY. BUT OF GETTING DETENTE OUT OF THE DRIFT OF THE PAST YEAR. HE WILL NEED TO GET EARLY PROGRESS ON SEVERAL FRONTS AND, INEXPERIENCED AS HE IS IN THE WAYS OF THE RUSSIANS, HE WILL HAVE TO SHOW IN THE PROCESS THAT HE CAN DEAL WITH THEM NOT ONLY IN A SPIRIT OF GOODWILL BUT WITH FIRMNESS.

8. FOREMOST ON HIS AGENDA WILL BE THE STALLED SALT TALKS, WHOSE IMPORTANCE HAS ALREADY BEEN STRESSED BY INCOMING SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE. THE INTERIM SALT I ACCORD EXPIRES IN OCTOBER, 1977, AND IF A NEW PACT IS NOT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 299710 TOSEC 320135

REACHED OR THE OLD ONE EXTENDED, THE TWO SUPERPOWERS WILL BE OFF AND RUNNING ON A NEW GENERATION OF LETHAL WEAPONRY (AND HOW MUCH MORE LETHAL CAN IT GET? ONE WONDERS). THIS WILL REQUIRE RECONCILING THE SHARP DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN THE PENTAGON AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OVER WHAT CAN AND CANNOT BE NEGOTIATED AWAY. AN ARMS AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE EASY TO ACHIEVE EVEN INSIDE THE ADMINISTRATION BUT WITHOUT ONE THERE CAN BE NO FOUNDATION FOR DETENTE ALONG

OTHER FRONTS.

9. TRADE, FOR INSTANCE. LEST ANYONE THINK ONLY THE

RUSSIANS BENEFIT FROM COMMERCE, LET THEM HEAR WHAT SOME 400 AMERICAN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES (WHOSE COMBINED SALES REPRESENT ONE QUARTER OF THE U.S. ANNUAL GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT) HAD TO SAY IN MOSCOW RECENTLY. THEY CALLED FOR AN END TO U.S. LEGISLATION THAT BARS CREDITS AND FORMAL TARIFF TREATMENT FOR THE SOVIET UNION UNLESS IT EASES ITS EMIGRATION RULES. SINCE JEWISH EMIGRATION HAS APPRECIABLY SLOWED DOWN SINCE THE PASSAGE OF THAT LEGISLATION, MR. CARTER HAS GOOD REASON TO PRESS FOR EARLY REFORM OF IT. AMERICAN BUSINESS CLEARLY FEELS IT HAS BEEN THE LOSER BECAUSE OF U.S. RESTRICTIONS.

10. THIS DOES NOT IGNORE THE SENSITIVE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. AS MR. VANCE INDICATED IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, THE SOVIETS CAN SHOW THEIR GOOD FAITH BY IMPLEMENTING THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS AND THE WEST OUGHT TO PRESS HARDER ON THIS. BUT WHETHER THE BEST RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED BY BACKING SOVIET LEADERS AGAINST THE WALL AND MAKING THE ISSUE ONE OF NATIONAL PRIDE AND PRESTIGE TO THEM IS OPEN TO QUESTION. PAST EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT QUIET DIPLOMACY ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL COMBINED WITH CONTINUED PUBLIC PRESSURE PROVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ACHIEVING FREER MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS ACROSS BORDERS.

11. IN ANY CASE, MR. VANCE'S APPROACH PROMISES TO BE A SOUND ONE. HE WANTS THE RUSSIANS TO DEFINE WHAT THEY MEAN BY DETENTE. HIS MAIN WORRY, HE TOLD NEWSWEEK'S ARNAUD DE BORCHGRAVE, IS THAT THE RUSSIANS NOT REGARD UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 299710 TOSEC 320135

DETENTE AS MERELY AN EXTENSION OF THE COLD WAR IN ANOTHER GUISE. DETENTE HAS TO BE GLOBAL NOT JUST EUROPEAN AND, WHILE THIS DOES NOT RULE OUT POLITICAL RIVALRY, IT SHOULD NOT BE A GREEN LIGHT TO THE SOVIET UNION TO FOSTER SO-CALLED WARS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION.

12. IN SHORT, MR. CARTER WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT CHALLENGE JUST LIFTING SOVIET-AMERICAN DETENTE OUT OF ITS CURRENT DOLDRUMS. HE AND HIS NEW SECRETARY OF STATE ARE DISPOSED TO DOING THIS AND THE PROSPECT, WE ARE HAPPY TO SAY, IS THAT THE TWO NATIONS WILL SOON GET BACK TO UNFINISHED BUSINESS. (END TEXT.) ROBINSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, DETENTE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE299710
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCHAMBERLAIN:JC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760455-0752
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761257/aaaabwpx.tel
Line Count: 166
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, PFOR, PARM, US, UR, CHRISTIAN SCIENC MONITOR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (CARTER, JIMMY), (BREZHNEV, LEONID I)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006